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23 October 1958

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 October 1958

### DAILY BRIEF

#### I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK USSR: The USSR will "definitely suspend" nuclear tests by 31 October, the opening date of the Geneva talks on a test-cessation agreement, according to a high-ranking Soviet Embassy official in London. Suspension of tests would permit the USSR to enter the Geneva talks in a strong position for insisting upon a permanent cessation agreement.

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Watch Committee conclusion: No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action against US forces abroad, US allies, or areas peripheral to the orbit in the immediate future, except as noted below.

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NOTE: Breaking of the cease-fire suggests that the Chinese Communists will, as they deem necessary, continue military action against the offshore islands in order to display their capability to retain the military initiative and to support their political objectives for the Strait area. While the Chinese Communists may expand the scope of their military activities against the offshore islands, available evidence does not indicate that they will do so to the extent of deliberately risking hostilities with the United States.

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Rumania-India: India and Rumania on 20 October signed an agreement providing Rumanian aid for construction of an oil refinery in Assam State in easternmost India. The refinery's annual capacity is expected to be about 750,000 tons. Rumanian aid, estimated at about \$18,000,000, will apparently include technical help in construction. This will bring total Soviet bloc aid to India to about \$350,000,000.

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Watch Committee conclusion--Middle East: Although a deliberate initiation of open hostilities in the Middle East is unlikely in the immediate future, the situation remains unstable throughout the area and incidents and coups could occur at any time.

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DAILY BRIEF

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### USSR to Suspend Nuclear Testing by 31 October

A Soviet Embassy official in London, who had just returned from Moscow, told a US Embassy officer on 20 October that the USSR will "definitely suspend" nuclear tests by 31 October, the opening date of the Geneva talks on a test-cessation agreement.

The USSR intends to go to Geneva with as strong a position as possible and may emphasize its willingness to enter immediately into a permanent and unconditional test-cessation agreement in anticipation of placing the United States and Britain in a contrasting "negative" position. Soviet leaders are certain the US and UK will not agree to a permanent test cessation before a workable control system is installed. Furthermore, official French statements have opposed any agreement not tied to cessation of production of fissionable materials for military purposes and gradual conversion of existing stockpiles to peaceful purposes.

The original Soviet announcement, preceding actual test resumption, of naval and air maneuvers in the Novaya Zemlya area stated the activities would extend until 25 October. Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's 7 October press statement, while insisting on Soviet freedom to continue testing until the USSR had reached the equivalent of US-UK tests conducted since 31 March, did not stipulate that Moscow actually intended to reach numerical equality with the West. The press statement was intended to justify Soviet test resumption and to prepare the way for Moscow to cast itself later in the role of volunteering unconditionally to give up testing for the sake of world peace.

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